

~~SECRET~~

CIA LIBRARY

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

For Week Ending
1 September 1948

Vol. III No. 34

0250204

Document No. 6010

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1763

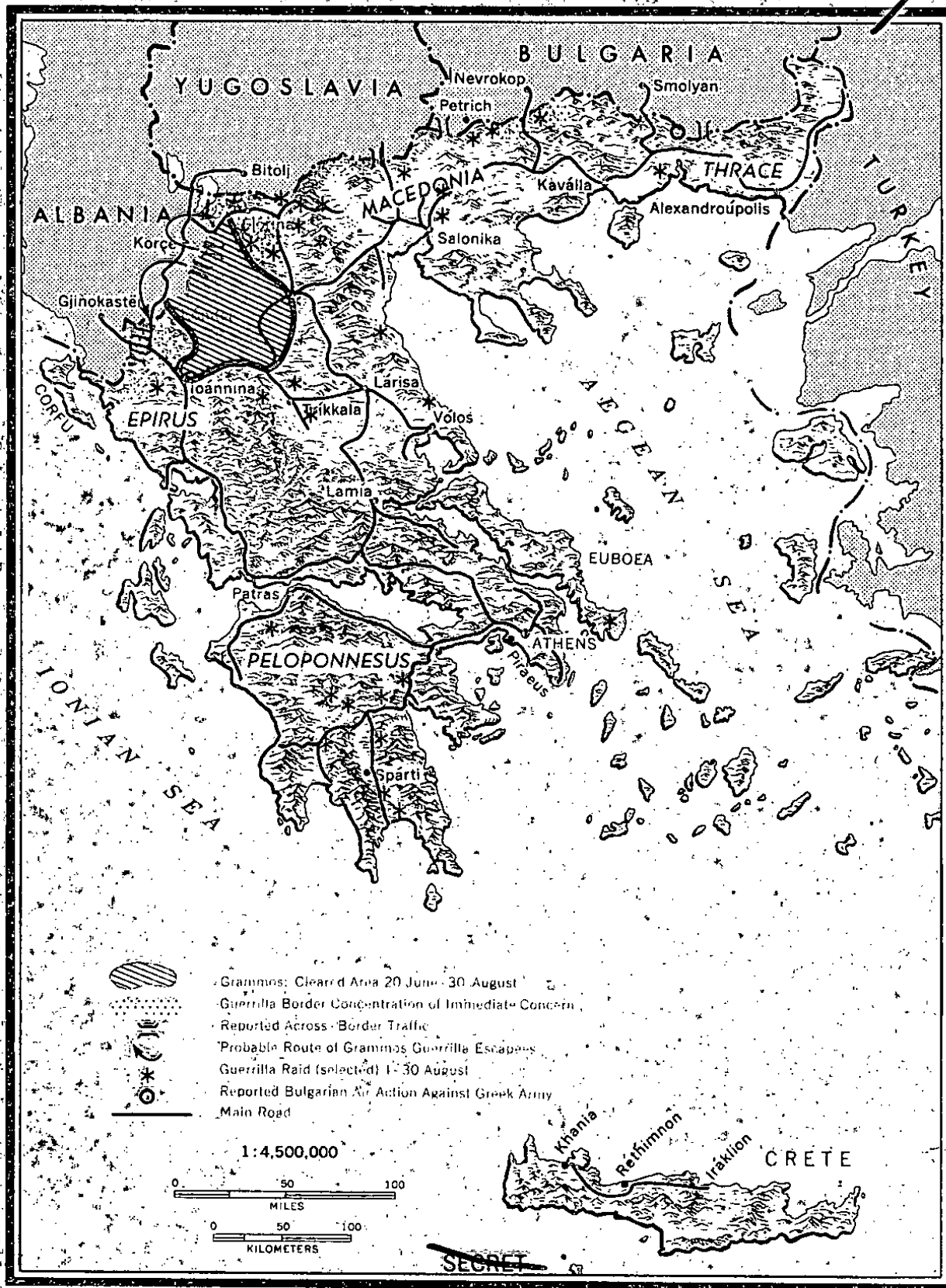
Date: 3 MAR 1978 By: oll

~~SECRET~~

F17

GREECE: SITUATION MAP-30 AUGUST 1948

~~SECRET~~



110467 Map Branch, CIA, 9-43

NOTE: The selected guerrilla raids represent only a small proportion of the total incidents of recruiting raids, communications sabotage, artillery attacks, etc. They are shown to indicate the widespread nature of guerrilla activity.

~~SECRET~~

NEAR EAST/AFRICA BRANCH

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Vol. III No. 34

For Week Ending
1 September 1948

GREECE

SHUT THE DOOR; THEY'RE COMING THROUGH THE WINDOW

The end of the Grammos operation has been marked by a rapid shift of both the northern guerrilla forces and the Greek Army to other portions of the Greek frontier. The border areas immediately north and south of the original Grammos zone of operations, particularly the former, are of the greatest immediate concern to the army. These areas have been reinforced by guerrillas who withdrew from the Grammos sector into Albania and then circled back into Greece, although the Markos radio has attempted to explain their reappearance by tales of brilliant guerrilla successes in breaking out of the Greek Army encirclement. In these areas, as well as in others scattered the length of Greece's northern border, the guerrillas are now digging in, but it is not yet clear whether they will attempt to repeat the stubborn defensive tactics of the Grammos battle or instead return to the less costly hit and run methods they had previously employed. Meanwhile recruiting raids, sabotage, the shelling of government-held towns, and other harassing guerrilla action continue throughout Greece.

ARAB STATES

SYRIA: Mardam Bey formed a new cabinet on 23 August which appears to be on the whole a fair run-of-the-mill government. He seems to have solved very neatly the problem of how to include Lutfi Haffar (Vice Prime Minister and Minister of State), who is influential but incompetent; with no portfolio, he can lend tone without being in a position to mess up a government department. Wehbi Hariri is still Finance Minister, which is unfortunate considering the present financial crisis in Syria. The intricacies of government finance, particularly in its international aspects, are completely beyond him. Michel Elian (National Economy) is a younger man, a Christian who was formerly Director General of Public Works; it remains to be seen whether he has the stature for a ministerial post. Most of the other ministers have served in previous cabinets.

LEBANON: Riad Solh could win hands down in any unpopularity contest among the people of Lebanon. The Prime Minister has given little attention to pressing internal problems, using as his excuse the necessity for directing

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

2.

all efforts toward a solution for Palestine. He has also been ruthless toward his opposition. Lebanese politics have never been noted for high-mindedness, but as the people become increasingly suspicious that Riad Solh's activities are designed merely to keep him in office, their resentment may take a violent turn.

EGYPT: The Nafid Party has issued a manifesto violently attacking the government and virtually calling the people to arms. The Nafid's main thesis is that the government has used the Palestine trouble as an excuse for imposing martial law and strict censorship merely in order to crush opposition and to make the Egyptians forget other important problems like the Anglo-Egyptian dispute.

PALESTINE

Indefinite continuation of the Palestine truce is endangered by internal pressures in Israel and the Arab states. In the Arab countries, the refugee situation is producing an economic and political strain so severe that the Arab peoples, not yet realizing the hopelessness of further military action, may demand that their governments solve the problem by force. For the Jews, the maintenance of their army on a wartime basis is already absorbing the greater part of the government's income, thereby forestalling steps essential to place the new country on a firm economic footing. Moreover, the government realizes that a prolonged military stalemate may provoke independent action by extremist groups which would lead to unrest in Israel and a weakening of the common Zionist front. Thus it is apparent that full-scale war may break out once again unless progress is made in the near future toward a permanent settlement. Because the widely divergent views of Jews and Arabs make the prospect of a negotiated solution extremely unlikely, the only effective method of resolving the problem appears to be a settlement imposed and guaranteed by the UN. Although both sides would almost certainly register strong objections to the terms of such a settlement, it is probable that both the Provisional Government of Israel and the Arab governments would welcome the relaxation of the present economic and political pressures.

IRAN

The overwhelming 93-8 vote of confidence which the Majlis recently gave Prime Minister Hajir is a far from accurate indication of the Hajir government's actual strength. Many deputies supported the government only because they wished to avoid unseating Hajir while the Shah was absent from the country, and the Majlis provided a means of reversing itself by

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

3.

reserving decision on the specific charges which brought about its vote. Nevertheless, the vote indicates that Hajir faces no immediate danger, and it is to be expected that the Shah, who returned from Europe on 27 August, will attempt to check the anti-Hajir maneuvering which developed during his absence. While the Shah will undoubtedly center his attention on the activities of former Prime Minister Qavam, he also will probably scrutinize those of another former premier, Zia ed Din Tabatabai, who has reportedly allied himself with the pro-Soviet Tudeh Party.

INDIA

Although India has finally signified its assent to the UN Kashmir Commission's cease-fire proposals of 14 August, the task of the Commission remains formidable. Pakistan, which has remained silent about the Commission's proposals, undoubtedly objects to some provisions of the truce plan, and India, which has reportedly conditioned its acceptance on clarification of certain of the proposals, can be expected to develop new objections during attempts to work out a compromise. The Commission is nevertheless going ahead with plans for administering a truce in Kashmir. It has asked the UN Secretary General for 40 military observers to operate in the field and for a military advisor of general officer rank to assist the Commission.

~~SECRET~~